



A Voluntary Charity working in Ukraine and Moldova

with roots going back to 1990



Voices from Ukraine – Karina’s story

Living each day with the war constantly on your mind is exhausting—physically, emotionally, spiritually. But for those with disabilities, it can be nearly unbearable.

Karina is only 18. She has cerebral palsy, and every step of her life requires incredible effort. Her sister Veronika suffers from cataracts, and their youngest brother, Matvi, is just three years old.

Their stepfather, Vlad, is away fighting in the war. Before the fighting, he worked in a shop and provided for the family. Now, everything has changed. Their mother, Ina, does not work outside the home—she stays with little Matvi, trying her best to earn a few coins online here and there. Karina, despite her own challenges, tried to help the family by handing out leaflets on the street. But people misunderstood. They looked at her and thought she was begging. They walked past her. Her efforts, and her dignity, often went unseen.

When we met her, Karina was at a friend’s home. A kind carer, someone who sees her—not just her condition. Karina attends the local Orthodox church, but even there, help has not come. Her carer, Iulia, told us about a sermon where it was said plainly: “There is no charity in the church or on its grounds. If you want to do charity, do it outside.”



Karina’s family has no home of their own. They move from place to place, carrying their lives in bags. For a while, they were living on the seventh floor of a building—with no lift. Can you imagine? Karina, unable to walk easily, climbing seven flights of stairs. Now they are on the first floor—easier, for now—but they don’t know where they’ll be tomorrow.

Still, she dreams. Karina dreams of having an electric scooter or wheelchair. Something to give her freedom. But in their world of constant moving, of temporary shelter, even that dream feels like too much to ask.

This is the hidden face of war. Not the headlines. Not the explosions. But the young girl with a radiant smile and unimaginable burdens.

Please, keep Karina in your heart. If you’re able, help us bring hope to her and families like hers who are living through the unspoken tragedies of this war.

CHRISTIAN RESPONSE IS A VOLUNTARY CHARITY AND RELIES ON DONATIONS

If you would like to support this work, please make cheques payable to **cr2ee** or direct transfer to Barclays Bank, Exeter. 20-30-47 account number 20902446

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Voices from Ukraine – Olga's story

Olga is the mother of two boys—Jenea, who is 13, and little Sasha, only two years old. Her husband once served in Crimea in 2015. When the war returned in 2022, he chose to go again. Eight months ago, he was killed.

He had been a driver, then was moved to drones. Olga now receives a small pension to support their children, and when she turns 50, she will be able to apply for a pension for herself.

She speaks softly, but with clarity: *"One thing I know,"* she says, *"the Russians cannot be trusted. And they will never stop."* She isn't sure what is happening in the talks and negotiations, but from where she stands, the cost has already been too high. *"So many men have died. It should stop now."*



Before he left, she had begged her husband to stay. *"You've already fought,"* she reminded him. But he only looked at their eldest son and said: *"If this war continues, Jenea will soon be 14. Do you want him to fight in this war?"*

That memory stays with her.

Now, Sasha will grow up without his father. He's too young to remember him. It's a sorrow that lives quietly in her heart. Jenea, at least, will carry some memories—though they may be few. When the news of his father's death came, he didn't cry. Not at the funeral either. He was silent, closed off. But when his father's belongings were returned... that was when the silence broke. That was when he finally let it all out. Olga wants to stay in Ukraine. She holds no bitterness toward those who have fled—she understands their choice. But for her, this is home. This is where her husband lies, where her children belong.

She believes Ukraine must go on fighting. Not out of hatred, but because giving in would only bring more loss. *"Putin has shown he cannot be trusted,"* she says. *"Even if there's an agreement, he'll change his mind. If we give up land now, he'll only want more."*

For Olga, it's not just about borders—it's about what message the world sends. *"If we let Russia take what it wants, then others will think they can do the same. Where would it end?"*

She carries her grief quietly, but her words are firm. Her pain is deep, but her love—for her children, for her country—runs deeper still.

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